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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Chicken-Egg Outlook

The economists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture summarize the outlook for chickens and eggs in five points:

Here they are:

(1) The price of eggs compared to the price of feed probably will not average as high this year as last year. Even so, it is likely to continue favorable for egg production.

(2) The favorable egg prices will encourage poultrymen to delay marketing of old hens and will encourage better feeding of hens than usual. So, the economists figure we will get the 13 percent more eggs than last year, which is the goal we set for this year.

(3) The economists say further that large quantities of eggs for lend-lease and more buying power of consumers in this country will more than offset the effect on egg prices of larger production this year.

So much for eggs -- The other two of the five points are on chickens:

(4) Because we are raising more chickens on farms, the economists say supplies of chicken this year and the number of layers on farms the beginning of next year will total larger than last year -- and by far the largest on record.

(5) Because of the stronger consumer demand, particularly for meats, the economists think farmers may average higher prices for their chickens this year than last, in spite of the prospective large increase in supplies.

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